

Daniels, Cher

From: Joe Dunn [joedunn@tmcscsi.com]
Sent: Monday, November 08, 2004 10:05 AM
To: SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com
Subject: Opposed to San Quentin construction

Please add my name to the list of Marin residents opposed to the proposed CIC at San Quentin prison.

Thanks,

Joe Dunn
80 Bayview Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901

Letter 46

Joe Dunn
November 8, 2004

46-1 The comment expresses opposition to the project. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

Sharon Hyde
313 Paradise Dr.
Tiburon, California 94920
Country
415-435-3363
hydebayside@comcast.net

November 08, 2004

Dear *Cher Daniels,*

I am writing to urge you to object to any expansion/overhaul of San Quentin. THIS IS A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE----to make a positive change for the community and general public. The public should have access to parks, recreation, housing, etc. that would become available. Move the prison to a less costly area. Nothing should interfere with a coast line area that is a gift for everyone. The prison has outgrown it's usefulness in Marin County and is an economic problem.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Sharon Hyde

Letter 47

Sharon Hyde
November 8, 2004

47-1 The comment expresses opposition to the project. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

Daniel J. Mardesich
27 Quarry Road
San Rafael, CA 94901-1701

November 8, 2004

Cher Daniels
Supervising Environmental Planner
Facilities Management Division
California Department of Corrections
501 J Street, Room 304
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Dear Cher Daniels:

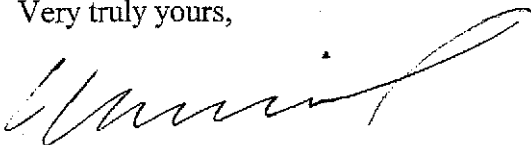
It was clear at the November 4th public hearing on the new San Quentin Death Row Project that the draft environmental impact report is inadequate and needs to be corrected and more thoroughly done.

It should be obvious that not only the death row project, but the entire prison needs to be replaced. All this should be considered at the same time.

Further, it should be obvious that a prison is not the highest and best use for this land. It is very valuable and desirable real estate and the state should sell it for a good price and obtain land where the values are not as high as they are in Marin County.

I hope the Department of Corrections will not try to railroad this project though without more thorough study.

Very truly yours,



Daniel J. Mardesich

Letter 48

Daniel Mardesich
November 8, 2004

- 48-1** The comment states that the Draft EIR is inadequate and that the Draft EIR should evaluate the replacement of the prison at San Quentin. This comment does not provide any information to support the statement that the Draft EIR is inadequate. Therefore, no further response can be provided. Please refer to Master Response 1.



Ms. Nancy M. Campbell
36 Plaza Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941-1540

Dear Ms Daniels, Nov. 8, 2004

Please do not rebuild San
Quentin in Larkspur.

The design is intrusive
and overbearing and ugly.
(But so is the death penalty.
Perhaps you could build the
prison so that it shrinks
from non-use ?!)

Workers come from other areas
daily - build it where they
live. The programs can
move elsewhere.

Nancy M. Campbell

Letter 49

Nancy Campbell
November 8, 2004

- 49-1** The comment expresses dissatisfaction with the design of the project and suggests the project be relocated. Please refer to Master Response 1 and 2. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

From: Dan Bell <DBell@ci.corte-madera.ca.us>
To: "SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com" <SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 9, 2004 9:05 PM
Subject: San Quentin EIR

A fundamental flaw of the San Quentin Vision Plan/Relocation of SQSP Alternative analysis is its myopic approach in evaluating the resulting impacts. Development of a "sustainable", multi-modal, transit-oriented, pedestrian and bicycle oriented, mixed-use community with work-force housing and energy efficient construction has far reaching benefits to the county and the region that can not be adequately evaluated when relying on obsolete urban sprawl models. Old paradigms for sprawl developments are simply not applicable here and must be rejected. Development of the Vision Plan can be a vehicle that fundamentally transforms Marin County. Individuals who are currently commuting miles and miles to and through Marin could now have the opportunity to live in Marin. Those same individuals and family members who currently live in inefficient sprawl developments in surrounding counties could now have the opportunity to walk, bicycle, or take transit to work, school, shopping, entertainment and recreation. An honest and farsighted evaluation of the Vision Plan analysis could conclude that there is actually a net reduction in county-wide and region-wide traffic congestion, air pollution and oil consumption. In these fast approaching times of depleting world wide oil production and increasing world wide oil demand and undisputed ozone depletion and global warming, a new model for a vibrant and energy efficient urban development is imperative. Admittedly, quantifying the county-wide and region-wide beneficial impacts of this alternative is a daunting task with innumerable variables. But, failure to honestly discuss this unique opportunity to develop a new and much needed model for an energy efficient urban in-fill development would be denying the decision makers a perspective that is so very important in these times. Anything less would be inviting the ever present NIMBY-thinking which is understandably based on the realized adverse impacts resulting from outdated, failed sprawl developments. Dan Bell, San Anselmo

Letter 50

Dan Bell

November 9, 2004

50-1 The comment states that the Draft EIR does not adequately evaluate the San Quentin Vision Plan Alternative. The comment does not provide rationale as to why the alternatives analysis is inadequate, so no further response can be provided. Please refer to response to comment 9-22 and to Master Response 1.

November 9, 2004

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capital Building
Sacramento CA 95814**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We urge your office to reexamine the feasibility and cost analysis done to date on the San Quentin expansion project. You have done a terrific job in office and seem to have such a clear vision that we are certain you would put a stop to this project if you sat down and really thought about it.

The most egregious inadequacy goes to cost. Prison officials have only compared this expansion with the cost of building an entirely new facility at another location. As such, this department has failed to adequately compare the cost of moving death row with the cost of rebuilding it in Marin where the construction costs and salaries are so high. Before proceeding to sink \$220 million of the state's limited financial resources in one of our state's most beautiful pieces of real estate for a prison facility, this department must do a truly adequate cost analysis of this expansion compared to the cost of adding onto an existing facility in another county where employment and construction costs are lower. While the conclusion to such an inquiry will inevitably inconvenience the appellate criminal bar, it will make sense long term for generations of law-abiding citizens of this great state.

In addition, the EIR fails to adequately address the impact of the proposed ambient lighting on the surrounding area as well as the impact on the surrounding wetland area.

It is hard to imagine a case where a better more productive use of land exists than this one. While locating a prison facility on the scenic shores of San Francisco Bay might have made sense during the mid-twentieth century, it seems almost irrational today. This old, decrepit, inefficient facility sits on one of the most dramatically beautiful and valuable vistas in the country. With its deep water accessibility, it could greatly improve upon our current ferry system and provide a rail link that would alleviate traffic congestion for generations to come. With its obvious transit potential, it also has obvious housing and commercial development possibilities.

I never write letters like this and usually assume my public officials are informed and come to reasonable conclusions that are for the best. But, this project defies logic. It makes no sense. Please force the Department of Corrections to do a better job and go back and adequately assess alternatives. San Quentin should be probably be closed, and this expansion project should be stopped.

Very truly yours,

Paul Bednarz-Marin Resident

cc. Cher Daniels

Supervising Environmental Planner CDC

Letter 51

Paul Bednarz
November 9, 2004

- 51-1** The comment appears to imply that the Draft EIR should evaluate the comparative costs of moving death row versus construction in Marin County. Please refer to Master Response 1 and response to comment 11-3.
- 51-2** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not adequately address lighting impacts on the surrounding area, including surrounding wetland areas. The comment does not provide rationale as to why the lighting analysis presented in the Draft EIR is inadequate, so no further response can be provided. Please refer to Master Response 2.
- 51-3** The comment states that the Draft EIR did not adequately evaluate project alternatives. The comment does not provide rationale as to why the alternatives analysis is inadequate, so no further response can be provided. Please refer to Master Response 1.

November 9, 2004

**Cher Daniels
Supervising Environmental Planner
Facilities Management Division
California Department of Corrections
501 J St., Room 304
PO Box 942883
Sacramento CA 94283-0001**

Dear Ms. Daniels:

We urge your office to reexamine the feasibility and cost analysis done to date on the San Quentin expansion project. It seems like your department has gone through the motions of complying with the required administrative procedures without genuine analysis.

The most egregious inadequacy goes to cost. Prison officials have only compared this expansion with the cost of building an entirely new facility at another location. As such, this department has failed to adequately compare the cost of moving death row with the cost of rebuilding it in Marin where the construction costs and salaries are so high. Before proceeding to sink \$220 million of the state's limited financial resources in one of our state's most beautiful pieces of real estate for a prison facility, this department must do a truly adequate cost analysis of this expansion compared to the cost of adding onto an existing facility in a county where employment and construction costs are bound to be much lower. While the conclusion

to such an inquiry will inevitably inconvenience the appellate criminal bar, it will make sense long term for generations to come for the law-abiding citizens of this great state.

In addition, the EIR fails to adequately address the impact of the proposed ambient lighting on the surrounding area as well as the impact on the surrounding wetland area.

It is hard to imagine a case where a better more productive use of land exists than this one. While locating a prison facility on the scenic shores of San Francisco Bay might have made sense during the mid-twentieth century, it seems almost irrational today. This old, decrepit, inefficient facility sits on one of the most dramatically beautiful and valuable pieces of real estate in the country. With its deep water accessibility, it could greatly improve upon our current ferry system and provide a rail link that would alleviate traffic congestion for generations to come. With its obvious transit potential, it also has terrific housing and commercial development possibilities.

I never write letters like this and usually assume my public officials are informed and come to reasonable conclusions that are for the best. But, this project defies logic. It makes no sense. Please do a better job and go back and adequately assess alternatives. San Quentin should be probably be closed, and this expansion project should be stopped.

Carolyn Miller-Marin Resident

cc. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Letter 52

Carolyn Miller
November 9, 2004

52-1 This comment letter repeats the content of comment letter 51. Please refer to responses to comments 51-1 through 51-3.

Comments on San Quentin Expansion and EIR
Kay S. Keohane
5164 Paradise Drive
Corte Madera, CA 94925

November 9, 2004

Cher Daniels
Supervising Environmental Planner
Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Dear Ms. Daniels:

Please accept these comments to the EIR now pursued by the California Department of Corrections.

The EIR clearly states that the expansion of San Quentin would cause significant substantial and adverse changes in the physical environment. Any other project with this kind of EIR would not be allowed to proceed. Why should the state choose to build a new prison at the gateway to Marin County and significantly alter the beauty of the surroundings? This is not serving the greater needs of the Bay Area or of the State. A prison expansion would seal the fate of this beautiful property without serving the greater population of the county or the state.

The EIR made no mention of the costs and process and disruption that would occur in updating the old buildings at San Quentin. This would be a greater cost than that of the expansion project. As Supervisor Kinsey commented, "This is like putting icing on a rotten cake." The EIR also did not mention the significant amount of light pollution that would be generated in this area. This is a heavily populated area and the lights of San Quentin carry far across the Bay and the EIR does not address the light pollution at night that will be created by the expansion. The EIR did not address the sensitive coastline or the marsh and wildlife directly adjacent to the property nor did it mention any alternative sites for the project. There are many areas that would welcome such a project.

The current design does not blend in with the landscape as the landscape appears to have been scraped away to make room for the expansion. The EIR shows no screening or mitigation to hide the new buildings. Most prison sites are away from the public eye as they should be, but this expansion would be insensitive to the rest of the community and make itself even more prominent that it already is. The needs of the prison system should not negatively impact the surrounding area and its residents and yet this is what this expansion would do. The EIR clearly shows a massive impact on the Corte Madera/Larkspur view shed, the Sir Francis Drake view shed and the ferry terminal view shed. This expansion would affect all the residents of this county and all those who travel through the county. This is an enormous impact because the prison is in such a prominent location.

The EIR needs to be redone with viable alternative sites and costs for these sites.

San Quentin is clearly not the appropriate place for this expansion and has long since seized to exist as a remote site. Please follow the guidelines of the EIR and find a new location for the expansion. Consider the plans that many of the county planners have done for this site and listen to Joe Nation, our assemblyman, and Steve Kinsey, our Supervisor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Kay Keohane

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Assemblyman Joe Nation

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Letter 53

Kay Keohane
November 9, 2004

- 53-1** The comment expresses opposition to the project and states that any other project with unavoidable significant impacts would not be allowed to proceed. CEQA allows decision makers to approve projects with significant unavoidable impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093) and this occurs frequently. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.
- 53-2** The comment states that the Draft EIR did not identify the costs associated with upgrade of the existing buildings at SQSP. CDC is not proposing any upgrades to existing facilities at SQSP, except for those facilities described in the project description (i.e., pump station). For those facilities that would be upgraded or modified (i.e., H-Unit, see Section 1.5), the costs associated with these upgrades are included in the \$220 million cost estimate for the project discussed in Section 3.8 of the Draft EIR.
- 53-3** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not address the nighttime lighting impacts of the project. CDC disagrees. Section 4.1, "Visual Resources," provides a discussion of existing and proposed nighttime lighting conditions associated with the project. Because no specific issues pertaining to the analysis are identified, no further response can be provided.
- 53-4** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not address the sensitive coastline or marsh directly adjacent to the property. CDC disagrees. Section 4.3, "Biological Resources," provides a discussion of biological resources adjacent to and within the vicinity of the project site. Because no specific issues pertaining to the analysis are identified, no further response can be provided.
- 53-5** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not evaluate any alternative sites for the project. CDC disagrees. Two alternatives that would relocate the project off-site were considered in the Draft EIR: "Off-site Location Alternative and San Quentin Vision Plan/Relocation of SQSP Alternative." The comment is referred to in Chapter 7, "Alternatives," of the Draft EIR. Please also refer to Master Response 1.
- 53-6** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not provide mitigation to screen the proposed buildings. Please refer to Master Response 2.
- 53-7** The comment states that the Draft EIR needs to evaluate viable alternative sites and associated costs. Please refer to Master Response 1 and response to comment 11-3.
- 53-8** The comment expresses opposition to the project. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

Pt. San Quentin Village Association
P.O. Box 26
San Quentin Village, CA 94964

November 9, 2004

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Cher Daniels
Supervising Environmental Planner
Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Re: Comments to the Draft EIR for the Proposed
Condemned Inmate Complex at San Quentin Prison

Dear Ms. Daniels:

The following are comments and concerns of the Board of Directors of the Pt. San Quentin Village Association with regard to the Draft EIR for the Proposed Condemned Inmate Complex (the "CIC") at San Quentin Prison:

- 1) Any new traffic to the prison caused by the addition of the CIC be routed to the West Gate of the prison. There is already an over-abundance of traffic on Main Street in San Quentin Village, along with continuing problems of speeding by San Quentin Prison employees. Any increase in the number of employee cars will exacerbate these problems;
- 2) If the CIC is approved, we ask that all construction truck traffic be routed to the West Gate of the prison;
- 3) All attempts are made to reduce light pollution from the prison that will affect the residents of San Quentin Village;
- 4) All attempts are made to reduce/buffer noise during construction and that the construction hours be limited to the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm;
- 5) All efforts are made to create a design of the CIC that fits into that of the old prison and would be more visually pleasing from surrounding areas than the proposed plain, blockish design;
- 6) The CIC is built with the stacked design, thus using less land and saving the historic schoolhouse and affordable homes for prison employees.

The above are our initial concerns based on the draft EIR. We reserve the right to comment further on the CIC project as developments arise in the planning process. Please keep us apprised of all new developments and opportunities to comment on same.

Cher Daniels
November 9, 2004
Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions about the above comments, please do not hesitate to write to me at the above address, or call me at (415) 453-4162.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Barni".

Michele Barni

President of the Pt. San Quentin Village Association

Letter 54

Michele Barni
November 9, 2004

- 54-1** The comment states that traffic associated with the project should be routed to the west gate entrance. CDC investigated expanding the use of west gate and found that it would substantially affect traffic conditions and, potentially, safety on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Because of curves in the road on Sir Francis Drake near the project, site distance is inadequate and mitigation of traffic and safety problems would involve widening Sir Francis Drake and realigning a portion of the road, cutting into the adjacent hillside. It was determined that this type of redesign of the roadway would be cost prohibitive. Traffic impacts to Main Street were evaluated in Section 4.12 of the Draft EIR. Regarding speeding by San Quentin employees, CDC and the administration of SQSP value the relationship between the prison and San Quentin Village and welcomes direct input to the warden on this issue so it can be addressed.
- 54-2** The comment requests construction truck traffic be routed to the west gate entrance. CDC intends to route construction truck traffic to the west gate entrance to the degree adverse impacts to west gate/Sir Francis Drake Boulevard do not occur. Please refer to response to comment 14-15.
- 54-3** The comment requests that all attempts be made to reduce light pollution from SQSP. This comment is acknowledged. Please refer to Master Response 2.
- 54-4** The comment requests that the construction hours of operation be limited to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Section 4.9, "Noise," of the Draft EIR describes the project's construction-related noise impacts. Mitigation recommended in the Draft EIR (Mitigation Measure 4.9-a, page 4.9-15) would limit noise-generating construction activities to between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Additional limitations on the construction hours of operation are not feasible because it would result in the substantial extension of the construction period and would not allow CDC to meet its construction deadlines and funding requirements.
- 54-5** The comment requests that the design of the proposed CIC blend with the design of the existing SQSP buildings. This comment is acknowledged. Please refer to Master Response 2.
- 54-6** The comment states a preference for the stacked design option. This comment is acknowledged.
- 54-7** The commenter asks to be kept apprised of all new developments associated with the project. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

Daniels, Cher

From: Andy Evans [awevans1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2004 10:07 AM
To: SQSPDEIRcomments@edaw.com
Subject: San Quentin EIR

This EIR is incomplete without the comparison of the impact to this site vs. other sights.

Visual is unacceptable
Lighting is unacceptable
Traffic is unacceptable
Water is not available

Andy Evans

Letter 55

Andy Evans

November 10, 2004

55-1 The comment states that the Draft EIR is incomplete because it does not compare impacts at the project site to other sites. CDC disagrees. Two alternatives that would relocate the project off-site were considered in the Draft EIR: “Off-site Location Alternative and San Quentin Vision Plan/Relocation of SQSP Alternative.” Refer to Chapter 7, “Alternatives,” of the Draft EIR. Please also refer to Master Response 1.

The comment also states that the project visual, traffic, and water impacts are unacceptable. This comment is acknowledged. Because no specific issues pertaining to the analysis are identified, no further response can be provided.

November 10, 2004

Ms. Cher Daniels
Supervising Environmental Planner
Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Re: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Condemned Inmate Complex at San Quentin State Prison

Dear Ms. Daniels:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report. We believe that the DEIR has a number of deficiencies that render it inadequate. They include the following:

1. The DEIR does not provide an honest assessment of project location alternatives. The State Auditor's findings reveal that the operation of San Quentin State Prison is already considerably higher than the operation of any other state prison. So it seems illogical that the DEIR does not examine a range of project location alternatives that could be more economically prudent. We believe that an adequate analysis of alternative sites for the CIC must be included in the DEIR.
 2. The DEIR also fails to analyze construction of the CIC next to an existing facility where the need for additional support facilities would be diminished. The DEIR should also evaluate the possibility of decommissioning the existing San Quentin prison and constructing a smaller CIC on the site, allowing the remainder of the lands to be converted to uses called for in Marin County's San Quentin Vision Plan.
 3. The mitigation measures for Visual Impacts are woefully inadequate. Painting stripes on the building will do nothing to improve its massive appearance. Alternatives to mitigating the visual impact from this huge structure need to be analyzed in the DEIR. The effect of increased lighting on the community of Corte Madera also has not been fully explored. To state that this will be a "less than significant" impact on the residents of Corte Madera is absurd. Changes in the view corridor from the project currently being developed by Monahan Pacific that abuts the San Quentin property must be analyzed as well.
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4. The DEIR states that no land use mitigation is required, because the project will not be incompatible with onsite or offsite land uses. However, it is incompatible with the County of Marin's San Quentin Vision Plan, and this conflict must be discussed in the DEIR. The Vision Plan was drafted to address local and regional problems, mainly the lack of affordable housing and the need for a multi-modal transit hub to provide connections to other Bay Area locations.
5. San Quentin State Prison is currently MMWD's largest water user. The DEIR states that additional supplies can be met through MMWD's desalination plant. If the pilot desalination plant is successful, and if MMWD directors decide to move ahead with the plant, it could not be built before the CIC opens its doors. The DEIR states that merely paying a "connection fee" would guarantee adequate water supplies. This conclusion is illogical. The DEIR must analyze where additional water supplies will come from if MMWD is unable to build the desalination plant or to find new sources of water.
6. Perhaps the biggest flaw in the DEIR is its assumption that the project will provide employment opportunities in a region with a large labor pool. It also states that the region offers a large, available housing stock. Since almost half of San Quentin's current employees live in Sacramento County, it is foolish to assume that new employees will be able to live anywhere except on the fringes of the region. The average Marin County home with a price tag of \$750,000 certainly would be out of reach of all new employees. The region does not have adequate housing for its workforce now, so it is incorrect to assume that new employees would find housing here. Adding jobs without new housing guarantees that employees will have to commute long distances to work at the CIC.

The DEIR must analyze the traffic impacts of new employees driving to Marin County through the most congested corridors in the region. In addition, no analysis has been done on regional impacts through submission of the project information to the Marin County Congestion Management Agency as required by law.

We look forward to continued discussion on the CIC proposal.

Sincerely,

Elissa Giambastiani
President/CEO

cc: Richard Costigan, Office of the Governor
Assembly Member Joe Nation
Supervisor Steve Kinsey

Letter 56

Elissa Giambastiani
November 10, 2004

56-1 This comment repeats the comments in comment letter 15. Please refer to responses to comments 15-1 through 15-7.